various agencies in the Indira Gandhi Airport and what is the number of complaints received in 1994; and

(c) what are the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There have been certain allegations of misbehaviour against some official complaints of congestion in the terminal building and charging of higher rates by porters at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA).

With a view to remove congestion, the International Airports Authority of India would be remodelling the entrance, increasing the number of aircraft parking bays, expanding the car park and upgrade various facilities in the existing terminal to ensure smooth movements of passengers in and out of the terminal building.

As regards complaints, it may be mentioned that a Complaint Book is kept with the Airport Manager and is available at all times for recording of complaints which are investigated and discussed in monthly Airport Coordination Committee meetings.

Total of 12 complaints were registered in 1994. These were investigated and action taken against officials wherever required.

Effect of hike in Airfare on tourism in Tripura

168. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the hike in air fare will adversely effect the promotion of Tourism in Tripura;

(b) whether Government are also aware the Agartala has no Railway line;

(c) whether Government are aware that an irregular and toy railway service from Kumarghat to Assam is there and Kumarghat is more than one hundred kilometers away from Agartala;

(d) wether it is a fact that without direct, easy dependable system of communication, tourism cannot be developed; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to promote Tourism in this farflung but truly attractive for tourists State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Domestic air fare in India are among the lowest in the world, and are uneconomic in relation to the cost of operation. Fares in the Calcutta-Agartala sector are still about 22 per cent lower than fares on comparative sectors in other parts of the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) There is a regular meter gauge train service from Kumarghat, to Tripura, there is a proposal to connect Kumarghat to Agartala by railway line for which field work has been completed and survey report is expected to be received in 1995-96. Thereafter a decision in this regard will be taken in consultation with the Planning Commission.

Development of Tourism in Port Blair

169. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Port Blair happens to be the most beautiful place in the world and it can attract large number of tourist;

(b) if so, the details of the steps so far taken for its development and the number of tourists (both Indians and foreigners) who visited this Island during the ist two years and with what results; and